



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For release: May 7, 2019

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Detectives arrest four men in prostitution operation

In an effort to deter prostitution and human trafficking in Howard County, police conducted an undercover operation yesterday resulting in the arrest of four men for solicitation of prostitution and related charges.

Officers arrested the would-be johns for soliciting prostitution at a hotel in the 9800 block of Washington Boulevard in Laurel. As part of the operation, detectives placed fake ads on websites known by detectives to be used for prostitution. Men who called the number in the ad spoke with an undercover officer who provided a meeting location upon the caller's request. When the men arrived and offered money for sex acts, they were arrested and charged with solicitation of prostitution and disorderly conduct:

Nicholas J. Charles, 20, of Gwynn Oak
Thomas A. Gantermiller, 42, of Pasadena
Brandon Lipscomb, 27, of Columbia
Bruce V. Tran, 47, of Gaithersburg

This operation is part of Howard County's ongoing effort to combat prostitution, human trafficking and related offenses and aids in making the county an unappealing place for traffickers and johns.

If you are a victim of human trafficking, HCPD can offer housing, treatment and other help. If you suspect human trafficking, OR YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS A VICTIM:

- CALL 911 or 410-313-3200 to speak privately to a detective.
- Tip line: 410-290-3784 or email: hcpdcrimetips@howardcountymd.gov

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